



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

## **Meeting Minutes February 24, 2015 Southeast Maricopa Regional Council Meeting**

### **Call to Order**

The regular meeting of the First Things First Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council was held on February 24, 2015 at the Family Resource Center, 817 North Country Club Road, Mesa, Arizona 85201. Chair David called the meeting to order at 4:03 p.m., welcomed everyone and took roll call.

### **Members Present**

Chair Anna David, Abigail Conley, Sherreis Moreland, Bill Schultz, Chris Scarpati, Vice Chair Detza Van Bogaert. Dee Tamminen attended telephonically.

### **Members Absent**

Council Members Jack Dillenberg and Maggie Pfaffenberger.

### **Members of the Public**

There were 9 members of the public present.

### **Approval of Regular Meeting Minutes of January 27, 2015**

Council Member Scarpati moved to accept the January 27, 2015 minutes. Member Conley seconded the motion, and it was approved unanimously 6-0.

### **Call to the Public**

There was one call to the public.

Carol Lopinski, from Child Crisis Center, gave an update on the work they do supporting fathers. There is a 'Fun with Fathers' event coming up in March to be held at Mesa Community College. Ms. Lopinski will send an information flyer to Director Melde to distribute to the Council members. In early June, there will be a Community Panel event. Flyers on this will also be sent to Director Melde.

Let the record show that Member Schultz joined the meeting at 4:14 p.m.

### **Find Help Phoenix Presentation**

Adrienne Decker Delgado, from Maricopa County Department of Public Health, shared a PowerPoint presentation with updates about the Find Help Phoenix website that we support through our Service Coordination Strategy. Member Van Bogaert requested brochures or posters about Find Help Phoenix to share with her workplace.

### **Second Read of Governance Policy**

Director Melde gave the Council the opportunity to suggest changes to the Regional Governance Policy. With no additional changes noted, Member Scarpati made a motion to accept the Regional Governance Policy as presented. Member Moreland seconded the motion and the Governance Policy passed 7-0.

### **Financial Report**

Director Melde reviewed the Regional Contract Expenditure Report dated February 17, 2015. The report shows most Grantees have expended at least 50% of their awarded allotment. The expended dollar amounts can reflect the individual Grantee spending cycle. There were no concerns from the Council regarding the expenditures.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

## **Discussion on Unfunded Approaches**

Director Melde led the Council in a discussion about unfunded approaches that can help build systems and/or advance the strategies already in place without direct funding. She used a slide show presentation to review system building framework outlined below:

- Context – Improve the political context surrounding a system to produce policy and funding changes to sustain it
- Components – Establish high-performance programs and services within a system
- Connections – Create strong and effective linkages across components
- Intra Structure – Develop the supports systems needed to function effectively and with quality
- Scale – Ensure a comprehensive system is available to as many people as possible

The Council has already identified some unfunded approaches which include partnering with the local hospitals to reach and connect families with home visitation services early in a child's life. In addition, we are working with the City of Mesa and Mesa United Way to increase language and literacy skills of young children through the Read On collaborative. Both the town of Gilbert and Queen Creek are exploring becoming Read On communities.

Member Moreland would like to see more communication with stakeholders and Quality First directors. Director Melde has asked Leslie Totten, Program Director of Quality First Early Learning, to speak to the Council next month on this subject.

Member Conley answered a question about the Faith Community's stake in the unfunded approaches. This is a conversation that will be continued at the next meeting.

## **Director Updates**

- **Home Visitation Referral System**  
Key informant interviews, online surveys, and focus groups were conducted to explore the viability and ensure a well-informed scope of work for a countywide Home Visitation Coordinated Referral System. Based on the positive response and support for the system, First Things First is developing a Request for Grant Agreement (RFGA) that is anticipated to be released in early March.
- **RFGA Process and Review Committees**  
Family Resource Center and Oral Health RFGAs have been released. RFGAs for Home Visitation Services and Home Visitation Coordinated Referral System will be released on March 2, 2015.

The RFGA review committees are being formed and the Council is represented on all the committees except for the Home Visitation committee. The Council is comfortable with a Council member from East Maricopa representing the region at the review.

- **My Child's Ready Wait List Protocol**  
Director Melde gave a handout to the Council from My Child's Ready that details their waiting list procedure. The wait list is a first come first serve basis; however, Home Visitation programs have different enrollment criteria and capacity that can result in some families being placed in services sooner than other families.
- **Child Welfare System Letter**  
The Council was provided a copy of a letter to the Joint Legislative Budget Committee from Charles Flanagan, Director at Arizona Department of Child Safety and Sam Leyvas, Chief Executive Officer at First Things First. Director Melde gave an overview of the letter's highlights.
- **Community Outreach**  
Director Melde announced that Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Coordinator John Taylor has accepted the position of Regional Director for the Gila Region and thanked him for his service. The Dr.



# FIRST THINGS FIRST

*Ready for School. Set for Life.*

## Southeast Maricopa Regional Partnership Council

Seuss book Oh the Places You'll Go was signed by the Council and presented to Director Taylor. Director Taylor stated his appreciation for the Southeast Maricopa Council and the relationships he has had with them. General Counsel, Executive Office, Casey Cullings said that despite the state hiring freeze, individual agencies can decide if an empty position is mission critical such as the Parent Awareness and Community Outreach Coordinator position.

- Champion for Young Children Award  
Each region will be recognizing a member of the community that goes above and beyond work in their with young children. Members Moreland and Van Bogaert volunteered to be on the review committee to recommend a person to the Council. The recommendation is due by April 15, 2015.
- Save the Date  
The Early Childhood Annual Summit will be held August 24-25, 2015. All Council members are invited.

## **Council Member Updates and Announcements**

Member Conley shared her participation at the Faith Forum. One of the standouts of the forum discussions was the different expectations and approaches from the Faith leaders around the state.

## **Adjournment: Next Meeting: March 24, 2015**

Chair David adjourned the meeting at 5:28 p.m.

The Meeting Room telephone was used for members participating by telephone. Speakers physically present at the meeting spoke into microphones to ensure that members on the telephone could hear. Members on the telephone were identified when they spoke for the benefit of those physically present at the meeting.

Submitted by:

Approved:

---

Patty Morris, Administrative Assistant II  
Southeast Maricopa Region

---

Anna David, Regional Council Chair